

HARDSHIP DECLARATION & REQUEST FOR EMAIL FILING AND FEE WAIVER

Submitted by: Lei-Le Christenson & Caleb Retelle

To: WIWD Clerk's Office | ECF Help Desk | Deputy Register Laura Nachazel

Date: 04/16/2025

Re: Request for Accommodation Under Hardship for Filing and Associated Fees

To Whom It May Concern,

We, Lei-Le Christenson and Caleb Retelle, respectfully submit this formal declaration to request:

1. Permission to file case-initiating documents via email rather than in person, by mail, or fax.
 2. A waiver of any associated filing fees, copying fees, or related costs due to demonstrated financial and caregiving hardship.
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I. Basis for Request: Medical, Financial & Family Hardship

1. Medical Disabilities (Lei-Le Christenson):

I, Lei-Le Christenson, live with chronic medical conditions and disabilities that significantly impair my mobility. These include documented gastrointestinal and neurological disorders which require consistent home care and at times, medical intervention. I am currently in recovery from postpartum-related complications and managing physical symptoms that make travel extremely difficult and potentially dangerous without assistance.

2. Infant Care (Viviana, born October 2024):

We are full-time caregivers for our 6-month-old daughter, Viviana Lucila Neija Retelle. Due to her age, she requires round-the-clock feeding, supervision, and care. We do not have outside childcare assistance and must coordinate her needs with our legal responsibilities.

3. Dual Caregiver Burden (Caleb Retelle):

Caleb is not only a father and provider, but also acts as my caregiver during flare-ups or mobility crises. This dual role limits his availability for travel or filing tasks, especially when court deadlines and parenting duties overlap.

4. Financial Hardship:

At this time, we are experiencing significant financial constraints. These include:

- Medical expenses related to postpartum recovery and disability
 - Limited work capacity due to caregiving duties and pending legal matters
 - Necessary living expenses to provide for our child
5. As such, the standard court fees present an undue burden and would impair our ability to access justice. Under Wis. Stat. § 814.29 and federal constitutional principles of due process and equal access to the courts, we respectfully request the waiver of any filing, service, and copying fees.

II. Legal Grounds

- Wis. Stat. § 814.29(1)(b): A party may file an affidavit of indigency and request that fees be waived due to poverty or inability to pay.
- ADA Title II / 42 U.S. Code § 12132: No qualified individual with a disability shall be denied the benefits of services or programs of a public entity, including court access.
- Constitutional Due Process (14th Amendment): Fundamental rights such as parental rights and access to legal recourse must not be impaired due to disability or financial hardship.

III. Request Summary

In accordance with the above, we respectfully request:

- Approval to submit our filings via email due to mobility and caregiving limitations

- Waiver of the filing and document fees, including any copy charges or facsimile restrictions, as an accommodation to ensure equitable access

We are willing to provide any supporting documentation necessary, including medical letters, proof of income, or affidavits. Thank you for your consideration in reviewing our hardship-based request.

Sincerely,

 A.R. &  A.R.
Lei-Le Christenson & Caleb Retelle